



WILLIAM GARDNER RHEA, JR., M.D.

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December 23, 2011

Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Patent No. 5916153
Application No. 08 958509
Filing date 10/27/1997
Issue date 06/29/1999

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is Form PTO/SB/66 and Form PTO-2038 with credit card information which includes a total payment amount of \$4,005.00. That amount includes \$2,365.00 for maintenance fee in addition to \$1,640.00 surcharge fee (Code 1558) for delayed payment.

This renewal was delayed due to personal illness and other extenuating circumstances. I did not receive the renewal notice of 1/31/11 and due to my illness was unable to keep track of the date in my personal records that renewal should have taken place. It also appears that unbeknownst to me my patent agent, Mr. John D. Jeter (license number 27,486) formerly of 1403 Teche Drive, St. Martinville, LA 70582, has died. Therefore, the date passed without my recognition of it in that he would have received the notification of renewal. I would request that forgiveness of the surcharge fee be considered and that amount be refunded to me.

This letter also is an official request that the contact information relative to this patent be changed from Mr. Jeter's address to my home address which is listed above.

Sincerely,

W.G. Rhea, Jr., M.D.

wgr/jsr